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Press Release

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL MCGRAW AWARDS FUNDING TO BECKLEY HEALTH RIGHT FROM
THE PHARMA, INC. SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw today announced the distribution of \$60,000 to Beckley Health Right for the operation of its drug diversion and awareness programs and its drug treatment program. This money comes from the latest installment in the \$10,000,000 settlement with Purdue Pharma, Inc. over the addictive qualities of the drug Oxycontin.

According to Jeff Graham, Administrator of Beckley Health Right, the funding will be used to train health care volunteers to be able to detect behavior in patients which indicates that he or she is attempting to procure controlled substances to sustain an addiction. Often the staff at free clinics are volunteers who are often not familiar with behavior that indicates "provider shopping" or a possible addiction to a controlled substance or prescription drug. The program funded with the award presented to today will be used to train the staff of Beckley Health Right to be more aware of possible prescription drug addiction among their patients. The funding will also be used to pay for the expenses of recovering substance abusers.

"Health care workers are on the front line in the fight against the abuse of prescription medication," McGraw stated. "This funding is being provided to Beckley Health Right so that they may train and educate their staff to be on the lookout for patients who may be seeking out drugs to feed their addictions. That way, the patient can be treated and overcome his or her addiction rather than being enabled by an unwitting health care provider who may be unfamiliar with the tactics of a desperate addict. This funding will support both education for health care providers and the recovery programs for abusers."

Purdue Pharma agreed to pay West Virginia \$10 million over four years and the awards came from the second installment of \$2.5 million.

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